

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

RECEIVED

APR 15 2004

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

1. (Canceled)
2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the major axis of the fold blade is a longitudinal axis and the major axis of the fold rollers is parallel to the major axis of the fold blade.
3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the two fold rollers are biased towards one another.
4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 18, comprising:
two fold flaps for forcing a sheet material around the fold blade.
5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the fold flaps are biased towards each other.
6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the fold rollers are rotatably mounted on the fold flaps such that the fold rollers are biased towards each other.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the fold blade is positioned in a plane which passes between the two fold rollers.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein each fold roller comprises:

multiple sub-rollers.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the fold roller rotates about an axis perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the fold blade.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the drive means is operable to move the fold roller along the longitudinal axis of the fold blade.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the fold blade includes at least two blade sections that are movable relative to one another to increase a perimeter of the rounded fold blade.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method for folding a sheet of material, comprising the steps of:

feeding a sheet material into an area between a fold roller and a fold blade, the fold roller comprising at least two fold roller elements biased toward each other in a first plane and the fold blade having a longitudinal axis in a first direction; and

moving the fold roller and the fold blade relative to one another to form a rounded fold in the sheet,

wherein the longitudinal axis of the fold blade moves from a first position vertically below an axis of the fold rollers to a second position vertically above the axis of the fold rollers, and the rounded fold conforms to a shape of the fold blade.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein each fold roller comprises: multiple sub-rollers, wherein a cumulative length of the sub-rollers and spaces between the sub-rollers is at least the length of a desired rounded fold.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the feeding step comprises the step of:

guiding the sheet material past the fold blade with a guide.

18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for folding sheet material, comprising:

a fold blade having a rounded folding surface and a major axis in a first direction;

at least two fold rollers, wherein each fold roller has a major axis in the first direction and a plane contains the major axis of the first fold roller and the major axis of the second fold roller; and

drive means for moving at least one of the fold blade and the plurality of fold rollers into operable communication such that the major axis of the fold blade moves from a first position vertically below the major axes of the fold rollers to a second position vertically above the major axes of the fold rollers,

wherein at least one of a size and a shape of the rounded folding surface is adjustable.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the fold flaps are pivotably biased towards each other.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~14~~ 18, wherein the rounded folding surface is adjustable to change a perimeter of the rounded fold blade.

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method of claim 14, wherein the fold blade includes a rounded folding surface.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 14,~~ A method for folding a sheet of material, comprising the steps of:

feeding a sheet material into an area between a fold roller and a fold blade, the fold roller comprising at least two fold roller elements biased toward each other in a first plane and the fold blade having a longitudinal axis in a first direction;

and

moving the fold roller and the fold blade relative to one another to form a rounded fold in the sheet,

wherein the longitudinal axis of the fold blade moves from a first position vertically below an axis of the fold rollers to a second position vertically above the axis of the fold rollers, and

wherein the rounded folding surface is adjustable and the method comprises the step of adjusting at least one of a size and a shape of the rounded folding surface to change a perimeter of the rounded fold blade.